

REMARKS

The indication that claims 7-9 include patentable subject matter is acknowledged with thanks. In reliance thereon, claim 7 has been amended into independent form by adding the subject matter of claims 1, 3-4 and 6 thereto. Consideration and allowance of claims 7-8 are respectfully requested.

Claims 2-9 and 11-12 were rejected under §112, second paragraph, and have been amended as to form. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 3-4, which have been canceled, and claims 13-15 have been added, leaving claims 1-2 and 5-15 in the application.

Claims 1-4 and 10-12 were rejected as anticipated by TRUBLOWSKI et al. 5,705,104. Claims 1 and 5-6 were rejected as unpatentable over JP08111132. The rejection based on JP08111132 is moot in view of the present amendment. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 (now including the subject matter of claim 4) under §102 are respectfully requested.

Amended claim 1 provides, among other features, that at least some of the components are between the web and a rear face of the support that contacts the web, and includes the step of rendering the components that are between the web and the rear face of the support visually and/or mechanically accessible from a front face of the support opposite the rear face. This is illustrated, by way of example, in Figure 2 that shows that

component 1 is visibly accessible from the front face 7 through the transparent part of support 3 and in Figures 3 and 4 that show that component 1 is mechanically accessible through the front face 7.

TRUBLOWSKI et al. discloses film 20, electrical circuitry 24 (Figure 2c) that may be on or both sides of film 20 (column 4, lines 11-13), conductors 22, connectors 30 and support 26. However, the reference does not disclose that the components (e.g., 24) that are between the web (e.g., film 20) and the rear face of the support (e.g., support 26) that contacts the web are visually and/or mechanically accessible from a front face of the support opposite the rear face. The connector 30 is accessible from the rear face of the support, but circuitry 24, conductors 22 and connectors 30 are not accessible from the front face of the support. Accordingly, amended claim 1 and the claims dependent from claim 1 avoid the rejection under §102.

The Official Action acknowledges that JP08111132 does not disclose this feature. Since the feature is missing from both references, the feature would not be obvious to one of skill in the art, and the amended claims avoid the rejection under §103.

New claims 13-15 are allowable because the references do not disclose the step of making the components that are between the web and the rear face visually and/or mechanically accessible from the front face of the rigid support. Claim 14 is

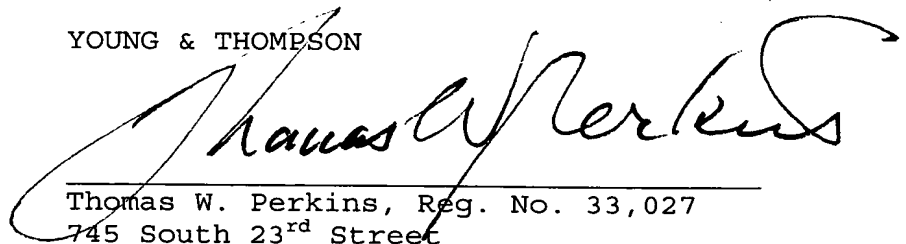
also allowable because the references do not disclose the step of making the rigid support translucent over at least some of the components so as to make the components beneath the translucent part visually accessible from the front face of the rigid support, and claim 15 is also allowable because the references do not disclose the step of making an opening in the front face of the rigid support to expose at least some of the components so as to make the components exposed in the opening mechanically accessible from the front face of the rigid support.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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